

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-33 (canceled)

34. (currently amended) An expression vector for a foreign gene comprising a promoter transcribing a selectable drug-resistance gene having an mRNA-destablizing sequence, which produces a short-lived transcript of the drug-resistance gene and wherein said promoter transcribes the foreign gene which is different from the drug-resistance gene.

35. (currently amended) An expression vector for a foreign gene comprising a promoter transcribing a drug-resistance gene linked to an mRNA-destablizing sequence; [[,]] wherein said expression vector confers drug resistance when transfected into a cell, [[and]] the drug-resistance gene is transcribed at a higher rate under selection with the drug because of the presence of the mRNA-destablizing sequence, and said promoter transcribes the foreign gene which is different from the drug-resistance gene.

36. (previously presented) The expression vector as set forth in claim 35, in which the mRNA-destablizing sequence is an mRNA-destablizing sequence of a c-fos gene.

37. (previously presented) The express vector as set forth in claim 35, in which the drug-resistance gene is selected from the group consisting of a neomycin resistance gene, a puromycin resistance gene and a hygromycin resistance gene.

38. (previously presented) Cells into which the expression vector as set forth in claim 35 has been transferred and selected with the drug.

39. (currently amended) A process for producing cells expressing a foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector as set forth in claim 35, comprising:
(a) transferring the expression vector into cells,

(b) selecting cells which express the drug-resistance ~~drug-resistance~~ gene from the transferred expression vector, and

(c) expressing the foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector in the selected cells.

40. (currently amended) A process for expressing a foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector as set forth in claim 35, comprising:

(a) transferring the expression vector into cells having gag and pol genes of a retrovirus,

(b) selecting prepackaging cells which express the drug-resistance ~~drug-resistance~~ gene from the transferred expression vector, and

(c) expressing the foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector in the selected prepackaging cells.

41. (previously presented) The expression vector as set forth in claim 34, in which the mRNA-destablizing sequence is an mRNA-destablizing sequence of a c-fos gene.

42. (previously presented) The expression vector as set forth in claim 34, in which the drug-resistance gene is selected from the group consisting of a neomycin resistance gene, a puromycin resistance gene and a hygromycin resistance gene.

43. (previously presented) Cells into which the expression vector as set forth in claim 34 has been transferred and selected with the drug.

44. (currently amended) A process for producing cells expressing a foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector as set forth in claim 34, comprising:

(a) transferring the expression vector into cells,

(b) selecting cells which express the drug-resistance ~~drug-resistance~~ gene from the transferred expression vector, and

(c) expressing the foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector in the selected cells.

45. (currently amended) A process for expressing a foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector as set forth in claim 34, comprising:

- (a) transferring the expression vector into cells having gag and pol genes of a retrovirus,
- (b) selecting prepackaging cells which express the drug-resistance ~~drug-resistance~~ gene from the transferred expression vector, and
- (c) expressing the foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector in the selected prepackaging cells.

46. (new) An expression vector for a foreign gene comprising a selectable drug-resistance gene having an mRNA-destablizing sequence, which produces a short-lived transcript of the drug-resistance gene and wherein the foreign gene is different from the drug-resistance gene.

47. (new) An expression vector for a foreign gene comprising a drug-resistance gene linked to an mRNA-destablizing sequence; wherein said expression vector confers drug resistance when transfected into a cell, and the drug-resistance gene and the foreign gene which is different from the drug-resistance gene are transcribed at a higher rate under selection with the drug because of the presence of the mRNA-destabilizing sequence.

48. (new) The expression vector as set forth in claim 47, in which the mRNA-destablizing sequence is an mRNA-destabilizing sequence of a c-fos gene.

49. (new) The express vector as set forth in claim 47, in which the drug-resistance gene is selected from the group consisting of a neomycin resistance gene, a puromycin resistance gene and a hygromycin resistance gene.

50. (new) Cells into which the expression vector as set forth in claim 47 has been transferred and selected with the drug.

51. (new) A process for producing cells expressing a foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector as set forth in claim 47, comprising:

- (a) transferring the expression vector into cells,
- (b) selecting cells which express the drug-resistance gene from the transferred expression vector, and
- (c) expressing the foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector in the selected cells.

52. (new) A process for expressing a foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector as set forth in claim 47, comprising:

- (a) transferring the expression vector into cells having gag and pol genes of a retrovirus,
- (b) selecting prepackaging cells which express the drug-resistance gene from the transferred expression vector, and
- (c) expressing the foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector in the selected prepackaging cells.

53. (new) The expression vector as set forth in claim 46, in which the mRNA-destablizing sequence is an mRNA-destablizing sequence of a c-fos gene.

54. (new) The expression vector as set forth in claim 46, in which the drug-resistance gene is selected from the group consisting of a neomycin resistance gene, a puromycin resistance gene and a hygromycin resistance gene.

55. (new) Cells into which the expression vector as set forth in claim 46 has been transferred and selected with the drug.

56. (new) A process for producing cells expressing a foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector as set forth in claim 46, comprising:

- (a) transferring the expression vector into cells,
- (b) selecting cells which express the drug-resistance gene from the transferred expression vector, and
- (c) expressing the foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector in the selected cells.

57. (new) A process for expressing a foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector as set forth in claim 46, comprising:

- (a) transferring the expression vector into cells having gag and pol genes of a retrovirus,
- (b) selecting prepackaging cells which express the drug-resistance gene from the transferred expression vector, and
- (c) expressing the foreign gene product encoded by the expression vector in the selected prepackaging cells.